

The Hongkong Telegraph.

ESTABLISHED 1881.

THE UNITED ASBESTOS
ORIENTAL AGENCY.

Sole Agents for the
UNITED ASBESTOS COM-
PANY LTD., LONDON,
DODWELL & CO., LIMITED
General Agents.

NEW SERIES NO. 1150. 日二月正年五十二緒光

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1899.

五拜禮

號三月三英港香

THIRTY DOLLARS
PER ANNUM.

Banks.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK LIMITED
ESTABLISHED 1886.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL..... Yen 12,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL..... 10,500,000
RESERVE FUND..... 6,000,000

Head Office—YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agents—
KOBÉ NEW YORK
LONDON LYONS
SAN FRANCISCO HONOLULU
BOMBAY SHANGHAI

LONDON BANKERS—
THE LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK, LTD.

PARRS' BANK, LTD.—
THE UNION BANK OF LONDON, LTD.

HONGKONG AGENCY—INTEREST ALLOWED
On Current Account at the rate of 2 per cent.
per Annum on the Daily Balance.

On fixed Deposits for 12 months at 5 per cent.

6 " 4 "

3 " 3 "

S. CHOH,
Agent.

Hongkong, 3rd October, 1898. [52]

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA,
AUSTRALIA AND CHINA

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.

HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

CAPITAL PAID-UP..... £800,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHARE-
HOLDERS..... £800,000
RESERVE FUND..... £450,000

INTEREST ALLOWED on CURRENT
ACCOUNT at the Rate of 2 per cent. per
annum on the Daily Balances.

On Fixed Deposits for 12 months, 4 per cent.

6 " 3 "

5 " 4 "

T. H. WHITEHEAD,
Manager, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 24th May, 1898. [53]

IMPERIAL BANK OF CHINA.

ESTABLISHED BY IMPERIAL DECREE
OF THE 12TH NOVEMBER, 1896.

Shanghai Taids

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL..... £5,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL..... 2,500,000

Head Office—SHANGHAI.

Branches and Agents—
CANTON HANKOW
CHFOO PEKING
CHINKIANG SWATOW
FOOCHEW TIENSIN.

THE Bank purchases and receives for col-
lection Bills of Exchange drawn on the
above places, and Sells them to
Transfers Payable at its Branches and Ag-
encies.

HONGKONG BRANCH.
Advances made on approved securities.
Bills discounted.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS:
3% per Annum Fixed Deposits for 3 months.
4% " " 6 "
5% " " 12 "

E. W. RUTTER,
Acting Manager,
Hongkong, 15th October, 1898. [537]

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED.

Authorised Capital..... £1,000,000

Paid up Capital..... 2,343,744

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

Court of Directors—
D. Gilles, Esq.
J. T. Lauts, Esq. Chow Tung Shang, Esq.
Chan Kit Shan, Esq. Kwan Hoi Chuen, Esq.
Chief Manager—
G. W. F. P. LAFAY.

Interest for 12 months Fixed, 5 per Cent.
On Current Account, Daily Balances 3 per
Cent. per Annum.

Hongkong, 30th November, 1897. [58]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL..... \$10,000,000
RESERVE FUND..... \$10,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIORS \$10,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS:

R. M. GRAY, Esq. Chairman
N. A. SIEH, Esq. Deputy Chairman
C. Beirne, Esq.

J. Bell-Irving, Esq. A. McConachie, Esq.
David Gubbay, Esq. A. J. Raymond, Esq.
A. Haupl, Esq. P. Sachie, Esq.
R. H. Hill, Esq. R. Shewan, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER—
Hongkong—T. JACKSON, Esq.
MANAGER—
Shanghai—J. P. WADE GARDNER, Esq.

LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND COUNTY
BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED:

On Current Account at the rate of 2 per Cent.
per Annum on the daily balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS:
For 3 months, 2½ per Cent. per Annum.
For 6 months, 3 per Cent. per Annum.
For 12 months, 4 per Cent. per Annum.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager,
Hongkong, 18th February, 1899. [59]

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of the above Bank is conducted
by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be
obtained on application.

INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 3½ PER
CENT. per annum.

Depositors may transfer at their option
balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND
SHANGHAI BANK, to be placed on FIXED
DEPOSIT at 4 per cent. per annum.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager,

Hongkong, 1st August, 1899. [59]

Intimations.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM
NAVIGATION COMPANY.

(o)

FOR	STEAMER	CAPTAIN	TO SAIL	REMARK
LONDON, &c.	Cormandor	F. N. Tillard	Noon, 4th March	Freight or Passage.
JAPAN	Reschia	G. H. Watkins, R.N.R.	4 PM, 4th March	Freight or Passage.
SHANGHAI	Chusan	E. Street	About 4th March	Freight or Passage.
LONDON	Manila	R. J. Haddock, R.N.R.	About 9th March	Freight or Passage.
STRAITS, &c.	Peshawar	F. W. Vibert, R.N.R.	About 10th March	Freight only.

*Passing through the Inland Sea.

*See Special Advertisement.

For Further Particulars apply to

H. A. RITCHIE, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1899. [59]

15

D.
C.
L.

OLD TOM GIN
DRY GIN

87 per doz.

SOLE AGENT.

H. PRICE & Co.

12, QUEEN'S ROAD

Hongkong, 16th February, 1899. [59]

20

W. POWELL & CO.

WOOL SHAWLS

AND

TRAVELLING WRAPS.

Hongkong, 11th January, 1899. [59]

27

AQUARIUS

SPARKLING MINERAL TABLE WATER

(Manufactured from Treble Distilled Water)

Telephone

75.

IS the most suitable for mixing with Wines and Spirits; neither discolors them nor changes
their flavour, as is so often the case with those Mineral Table Waters which contain iron
and other salts.

A PERFECT TABLE WATER.

H. CALDBECK, MACGREGOR & CO., AGENTS.

AQUARIUS COMPANY.

Hongkong, 3rd February, 1899. [59]

25

THE CLUB HOTEL,
LIMITED.

No. 5, BUND, YOKOHAMA.

A FIRST-CLASS HOTEL. Centrally situated, well furnished and
supplied with excellent Cuisine and Good Wines.

The Company's Steam-launch attends the arrival and departure of all
Mail Steamers.

Special attention paid to the Comfort of Visitors.

E. V. SIOEN, Manager.

Yokohama, 1st October, 1897. [59]

Intimations.

UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL
AGENCY, LIMITED.

SOLE AGENTS IN

HONGKONG, CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS,

FOR THE

UNITED ASBESTOS CO., LTD., LONDON,

CONTRACTORS TO H.M. GOVERNMENT.

MANUFACTURERS OF THE

Best Qualities of ASBESTOS GOODS and PACKINGS.

"VICTOR" METALLIC BOILER JOINTS.

ASBESTOS SALAMANDER BOILER COVERING COMPOSITION of the best qualities.

ESTIMATES given for every DESCRIPTION of WORK.

SUPERINTENDENT..... THOS. SKINNER.

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED, General Agents.

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY,
LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE THIRTIETH ORDINARY MEET-
ING of SHAREHOLDERS in the
Company will be held at the COMPANY'S OFFICES,
No. 3, Queen's Road, Central, Victoria, on
MONDAY, the 13th March, at Twelve o'clock
(Noon), for the purpose of receiving a State-
ment of Accounts and the Report of the
Directors for the year ending 31st December,
1898.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 27th instant to the
13th March, both days inclusive.

By Order

GEO. L. TOMLIN,
Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, 13th February, 1899. [59]

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY,
LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY
MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will
be held at the COMPANY'S HOTEL, on
TUESDAY, the 14th March, at NOON,
for the purpose of Receiving a Statement of
Accounts of the Company to the 31st December,
1898, with the Report of the Directors, and to
discuss any matter that may be competently
brought before the Meeting.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 1st to the 14th
March, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board

C. MOONEY,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 20th February, 1899. [59]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFAC-
TURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE FIFTEENTH ORDINARY AN-
NUAL MEETING of SHARE-
HOLDERS in the Company will be held at
the COMPANY'S OFFICE, No. 9, Praya Central,
Victoria, on WEDNESDAY, the 15th March,
at Twelve o'clock (Noon) for the purpose of
receiving a Statement of Accounts and the
Report of the General Managers for the year
ending

To-day's
Advertisement.

BIJOU THEATRE.

RECLAMATION GROUND, WEST POINT.

TO-NIGHT

and Every Evening till further notice.

THE
SPANISH-AMERICAN
WAR.The Greatest Spectacular Triumph that
Hongkong has ever seen.

TO-MORROW, (SATURDAY)

MATINEE NIGHT

at 4 P.M. at 9 P.M.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899. [118a]

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

LONG RANGE AND SPOONS.

THERE will be a COMPETITION for the
above TO-MORROW (SATURDAY),
the 4th instant, at 3 P.M.
RANGES—700 and 800 yards,
Seven Shots and one Sighter.MOWBRAY S. NORTHCOTE,
Hon. Sec.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899. [35]

TO LET.

SEMI-DETACHED VILLA RESIDEN-
CES on Bowen Road (now in course of
erection).PROPERTY now occupied by the
Bowrington Saw Mills.FLOORS in STAUNTON and ELGIN
STREETS."BAHAR LODGE,"
No. 4, RIPON TERRACE."HARFORD," MAGAZINE GAP. Furnish-
ed or Unfurnished.No. 5, KUNSFORD TERRACE,
KOWLOON.—Furnished.Apply to
THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-
MENT & AGENCY CO. LTD.
Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899. [12]CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,
LIMITED.FOR SHANGHAI (DIRECT).
THE Company's Steamship
"TAIWAN."Captain Nelson will be despatched as above on
MONDAY, the 6th instant, at 4 P.M.
For Freight or Passage apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899. [293a]

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION
COMPANY, LIMITED.
FOR MANILA (DIRECT).THE COMPANY, N.Y.C., will be despatched
as above on TUESDAY, the 7th instant,
at 4 P.M.This Steamer has Superior Accommodation
for First Class Passengers.For Freight or Passage, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899. [300a]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,
LIMITED.FOR PORT DARWIN, QUEENSLAND
PORTS, SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE
VIA MANILA.THE Company's Steamship
"TAIYUAN."Captain Nelson will be despatched on
MONDAY, the 13th instant, at 4 P.M.The attention of Passengers is directed to the
Superior Accommodation offered by this
Steamer. The First-class Saloon is situated
forward of the Engines. A Refrigerating
Chamber ensures the Supply of Fresh
Provisions during the entire voyage.A duly qualified Surgeon is carried and the
Vessel is fitted throughout with Electric Light.N.B.—Return Tickets issued by this
Company to and from AUSTRALIA are available for
return by the Steamers of the EASTERN AND
AUSTRALIAN S.S. Co. and their agents.For Freight or Passage, apply to
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Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899. [284a]

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Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899. [285a]

UNITED STATES AND CHINA-JAPAN
STEAMSHIP LINE.

FROM NEW YORK AND STRAITS.

THE Steamship

"INDRAVELLI,"
having arrived from the above ports, Con-
signees of cargo by her, are hereby informed
that their goods, are being landed at their
risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and
Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited
at Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained.Optional cargo will be forwarded unless
notice to the contrary be given before Noon
TO-MORROW.Cargo remaining undelivered after the 9th
instant, will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Consignees are requested to present all
claims for damages and/or shortages not later
than the 16th instant, otherwise they will not
be recognized.Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899. [292a]

To-day's
Advertisement.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instruc-
tions to Sell by
PUBLIC AUCTION,
(For Account of the Concerned.)

TO-MORROW,

(SATURDAY) the 4th March, 1899,

at NOON,

at their SALES ROOMS, Ice House Street,

cases—GRAND VINS DE CHAMPAGNE,

3 cases ARAC PUNCH, 8 cases GIN, 11

cases BITTERS, 4 cases MARGARINE, 8

cases MILK, 5 cases TENNENTS EN-

GLISH BEER, SARDINES, BICYCLES, 5

cases LAMP CHIMNEYS.

Also

BRUSSELS CARPETS and RUGS and

TIENSIN CARPETS.

TERMS:—As Usual.

HUCHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899. [301a]

Intimation.

at

at

4 P.M.

9 P.M.

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Hongkong, 3rd March, 1899. [292a]

afraid to go to extremities and are always to be
satisfied with an easily broken promise
or a half-hearted apology.The statement that the Chinese have lost
a great deal of their respect for us is not
made without sufficient reason. We have
been assured by persons well acquainted with the
Chinese, who have recently returned from
the north that such is undoubtedly the case.
The fact has been pointed out to them by
Chinese who were in favour of the British
and who expressed their regret that such a
state of affairs should have come to pass.
Had we but taken firm stand on many
occasions instead of allowing ourselves to
be put off by Chinese assurances our stand-
ing at Peking would have been very different
to what it is at present. If we are to have
a hand in the general game of bluff we must
learn to play our hand with as much
assurance as other Powers play theirs. As
Lord CHARLES BERESFORD only too truly
remarked the other day, the policy of drift
must be abandoned and a strong stand taken
in the matter of Chinese affairs.THE HONGKONG C. C. will play the Navy on
Saturday at 11.30 a.m. The Club's team will be
as follows:—T. S. Smith, G. R. Vallings, K. G.
Campbell, Colville R.A., Capt. Langhorne, A. G.
Ward, E. Mast, G. D. Campbell, H. Rotherham,
Lieuts. Castle, and H. Hill. And the Navy will
be represented by F. A. Powlett, H. W. Manisty,
E. L. H. Strong, F. H. Hall, C. H. Salisbury,
C. P. St. J. Benn, C. R. Sheward, R. F. White,
H. F. Jelf, and A. E. Wood. The bands of the
Centurion and *Powerful* will play during the
afternoon.THE Corporation of London has still in its
possession a famous sword presented to it by
Lord Nelson. It is the sword of Blanquet, the
only French admiral who survived the dis-
astrous battle of Abukir Bay. Nelson's letter
to the Lord Mayor ran:—"Langford, Mouth of
the Nile, August 8, 1798. My Lord,—Having the
honour of being a Freeman of the City of London,
I take the liberty of sending to your Lordship
the sword of the commanding French admiral,
Monsieur Blanquet, who survived, after the
battle of the first, off the Nile, and request that
the City of London will honour me by the
acceptance of it, as a remembrance that Britannia
still rules the waves; which that she may for
ever be the fervent wish of your Lordship."—

GERMANY.

Herr von Bulow speaking in the Reichstag
said that unless the culprits of the outrages on
Germans at Tientsin were severely punished,
it is difficult to believe that even an anti-foreign
mandarin would have dared to exhibit such
a piece of impertinence, but it only serves to
show that depths British prestige has
fallen.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

INDISPOSITION OF THE POPE
OF ROME.

LONDON, March 1st.

The Pope is suffering from the effects of a
prolonged swoon and has been ordered to his
bed for absolute repose. His Holiness is now
somewhat better.

GERMANY.

LORD KIMBERLEY ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

Lord Kimberley, on January 25th, delivered his annual address as president to the members of the Weymouth Liberal Association. He expressed his great regret at Sir William Harcourt's resignation of the Liberal leadership in the House of Commons and the further loss of Mr. Morley, but declined to deal with questions of a personal kind. In reference to the definitions of "Jingoes" and "Little Englanders," he said the discussion was a very barren and unprofitable one. He supposed there was no one who was opposed to the extension of the Empire under any conceivable circumstances. No one considered Lord Gladstone anxious to saddle the nation with avoidable responsibilities, but in the course of his career he added not a few territories to our dominions. It was a mistake to suppose that we could always preserve the peace by maintaining a very humble and forbearing attitude. Lord Palmerston, who did not refrain from both strong language and strong acts, preserved the nation from war, while Lord Aberdeen, who was essentially a man of peace, involved us in the Crimean War. In this connection Lord Kimberley referred to the Fashoda crisis. He deprecated any thing like boasting of the outcome, and expressed a hope that Lord Salisbury would have better fortune than had in trying to settle the outstanding difficulties with France.

THE CZAR'S PRONOUNCEMENT.

His lordship continued:—What I could hope for is that the memorable pronouncement by the Czar of Russia might have weight and far-reaching consequences. No one can but feel the highest admiration for a proposal of the kind, coming, as it does, from a Sovereign holding the position he does, and I can but feel and I cannot conceal the feeling that, looking all round, the practical results do not seem to be very hopeful. But I world not deprecate every effort being made by the Governments of Europe to bring that proposal to some practical result which may relieve the people from the terrible burden of military armaments, and prevent disastrous wars and the financial collapse which may one day happen. (Cheers.) CHINA.

The other question which occupied us very much during the summer and autumn was the question of China. I do not think that even now there is a feeling of satisfaction with the Government as regards the management of affairs in China. There is a feeling that we are not quite sure what the policy of the Government really is. There are two old catchwords, "open door" and "the sphere of influence," and we never know, on which horse the Government is prepared to ride. It would be far more satisfactory if we knew more clearly what that policy is. What our interests are, I have no doubt whatever. We have a great trade with China, and our interest is to maintain that trade. Our interest is not to assume responsibilities of a territorial character in China, and as far as possible to live on good terms and peacefully with other nations engaged in China, and to come to a good understanding with them. Above all, it is highly desirable that we should have a good understanding with Russia. (Hear, hear.)

I was very much pleased, and perhaps a little surprised, when I heard Mr. Chamberlain the other day express that sentiment. He made what may now be considered a famous speech about a certain "long spoon," which perhaps was not very conciliatory towards Russia. But he has now changed his mind. He says, "I believe that it is necessary unless very serious complications are to be encountered"—that is, with regard to China. That is a sentiment with which I entirely agree, but it is in the interests of this country, and perhaps it will not be imprudent for me to say in the interests of Mr. Chamberlain, that he should be rather more cautious in his utterances. I must express the hope that we shall have something more authoritative than speeches by Mr. Chamberlain—namely, from Lord Salisbury himself, and that he will explain what is the policy of the Government with regard to China and to what limits they are prepared to go. We shall also hear, I hope, what agreement has been concluded with Germany. I should welcome that with the greatest pleasure, for I do not know a single nation with which we should have more cordial relations, than with Germany for there is nowhere in the world where our interests ought to come into contact. If Lord Salisbury has concluded an agreement with Germany, and it relates to some question with reference to Africa which has given us some trouble, a great advantage will have been gained for the peace of the world and for our interests in those parts of it. I have read the statements of Mr. Chamberlain, which are very interesting and very able put, and they have not been very infrequent. I have alluded to one case where Mr. Chamberlain does not appear to be in the same mind this year, as he was in the middle of last year.

THE QUESTION OF ALLIANCES.

Last year during the session of Parliament we were startled, almost electrified, by Mr. Chamberlain saying it was a necessity for this country to seek for alliances. We thought that such an announcement as that could not be made without the authority of the Cabinet. We thought there was to be a change in the policy of the Government. We had heard it taught that blind, entangling alliances were not desirable, and I took occasion to mention the subject in the House of Lords. But Lord Salisbury was very wary, indeed. He said he had not read Mr. Chamberlain's speech (laughter)—and would not give me any information except what I derived from his silence—namely, that he never authorised such a speech as that. (Laughter.) Mr. Chamberlain has now quite changed his mind. I have ventured to point out that alliances of anything like a permanent nature are undesirable, but alliances for particular purposes are very desirable and are often made. But now, Mr. Chamberlain gives us quite another account of the matter. He told us the other day at Wakefield that this country might be satisfied with him if he signed this "splendid isolation" (laughter)—and that alliances if they were to be concluded must be alliances for particular purposes, and not of any general character such as some persons had ascribed to him. I am much pleased to see that he has come back to that state of mind—namely, that it is not desirable to entangle ourselves with permanent alliances with foreign nations, but that it is desirable to make agreements from time to time for special purposes. I was taken to task by a distinguished correspondent of one of the London newspapers, who said that I had thrown cold water on a good understanding between this country and the United States. But, what I said was this—I rejoiced as much as any one could at the prospect of a better understanding with the United States, but I thought the Americans would have changed their policy, if they thought that they were going to make any permanent alliance with us, and that such permanent alliance would be made I did not believe. Mr. Chamberlain has come round to that opinion also now. About that "splendid isolation" I do not think it is wise, I know it is not necessary, to boast of our isolation, or to say we are so powerful and great that we do not want the help of anybody else; and that we can stand by ourselves. If you were to ask me whether I have faith enough in the spirit and power of

this Empire to believe that we could boldly face and possibly overcome any combination that might be made against us, I should say "Yes"; but, at the same time, to boast of it seems to me to be entirely wrong. It will not be a desirable thing for this country to be isolated, in case of a combination against us, and while isolation in the sense that we do not entangle ourselves in a permanent alliance on the Continent which may lead us into Continental wars is desirable, on the other hand, can anybody for a moment believe that if we were engaged in some great conflict we should not be only too glad to receive the aid and assistance of any great nation that might be disposed to help us? (Cheers.) I may have said too much about Mr. Chamberlain, but he is a man for whom I have great respect and admiration because of his ability. I always read his speeches with great attention, and I always make to myself this is, "I should certainly be sorry to be responsible for foreign affairs with Mr. Chamberlain as a colleague." (Laughter.)—*Rangoon Times.*

FRENCH INTRIGUES AT MUSCAT.

A COALING STATION PROMISED.
BREAK OF THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT.
A NEW RUSSIAN CONSUL.
(From a Correspondent.)
[Times of India.]

Muscat, February 4th.

For some weeks rumours have been ripe in the town that the Sultan of Oman was on very strained terms with the British Government. These rumours all point to one conclusion that the Sultan, acting against the wishes of his responsible advisers, has promised to grant the French a coaling station at some point on this coast. As far as I can gather, this determination is in direct violation of the terms under which the Sultan holds his present rank, and if persisted in, will inevitably bring him into conflict with the British Government.

The rumours all point to one conclusion that the Sultan of Oman is supported by a joint agreement between the French and British Governments, whereby each binds itself not to annex the country or any part of it, so that the action of the French officials in attempting to obtain, actually obtaining, the Sultan's consent to the grant of the lease of a coaling station is an understand piece of business, which is on a par with their recent policy in other parts of the world. Whether the British Government

will permit this cession to take place is very doubtful. It must be borne in mind that for many years we have paid the Sultan a monthly subsidy of about Rs. 7,000, and until quite recently the various Sultans have always been suspended, and an indemnity of Rs. 22,000 paid. A warrant is also issued for the apprehension of the headman of the village near which Mr. Fleming was murdered, who is perhaps the most guilty of all concerned, having been at the head of the Indians who searched Mr. Fleming's house before the deed was committed. This Indian has, however, absconded, leaving his estates, which are considerable in extent and value, to be confiscated, and a reward of Rs. 500 offered for his apprehension. Mr. Litton, who arrived here on the 8th inst., reports the province of Kueichow quite peaceful.—*China Gazette.*

She is not the only power eager to establish her influence in these quarters, as it is now known that the Russians are also sending a consul here. Although Russian trade is not a house is now being prepared for the reception of a Russian Consul, and it is worthy of note that the Sultan is so complaisant that he is actually lending a house for that purpose—presumably free of cost—following the precedent which he established some time ago in the case of the representative of France.

Affairs are in an unsettled state in the town and its vicinity, and several large robberies have recently been committed. H.M.S. ship "Sparta" and "Redbreast" are in port, the latter vessel having recently arrived from Bombay.

Rain has fallen at intervals now for the last few days, but not nearly as much as is usual at this time of year. The "Afghanistan," a large new steamer belonging to F. C. Strick, of London, arrived here on her maiden voyage yesterday, but left almost immediately for Bireh.

THE FRENCH AT MUSCAT.
SITE OF THE COALING STATION.
(Feb. 11th.)

We learn from another source that the coaling station which the Sultan of Oman has ceded to France is believed to be the harbour of Bandar Jiss (or Bunder Jissel), five miles from Muscat. It is a land-locked harbour, about the same size as the Muscat anchorage. It has an island across its entrance, and is said to be capable of being strongly fortified.

(February 12th.)

FRENCH INTRIGUES AT MUSCAT.

The news which we print in another column of an attempt on the part of France to obtain a coaling station on the coast of Oman, constitutes an announcement of serious international importance. From time to time we have called attention to the singular activity of the agents of more than one Foreign Power at various points in the Persian Gulf. Where this activity has been manifested by Consular representatives it has more than once been exerted in a manner injurious to the interests of Great Britain. This has been notably the case at Muscat, where the growing inattention of the Sultan to representations offered to him "on behalf of the British Government is unmistakably traceable to foreign influence. Another phase of the fresh interest of other Powers in the Persian Gulf has been the occasional appearance of mysterious agents, who come no man knew whence, and sometimes vanished with equal secrecy. They were generally "merchants," though they travelled unencumbered by samples. They flitted from harbour to harbour, sometimes as dock passengers on steamers, but more often as travellers on coasting craft. Now and then they journeyed in the apparently harmless guise of plague doctors. The movements of these stormy petrels are difficult to chronicle, but the fruits of their wanderings are becoming apparent. There can be no doubt that France and Russia are both engaged in watching the progress of events in the Persian Gulf with a close attention which is not entirely disinterested. France has at length found the opportunity she sought in the weakness of the pliable ruler of Muscat.

The Controleur does not accept the above report as true, but says, if it prove true, one of the most dangerous opponents of the Dutch has disappeared, and the war in Aceh is practically at an end.

A NARROW SHAVE.
The dangers of irchins riding behind gharrys was demonstrated with very nearly fatal effect the other evening. As a gharry, with a Malay small boy taking a free ride behind, was passing the Singapore Town Hall about 6 p.m., the little fellow jumped off, without noticing that, another gharry was close behind. He ran clean into the track of the following pony and was knocked down and run over without the syc having the least chance to pull up in time. A European gentleman who was in the second gharry at once alighted, picked up the little chap who had lain quite unconscious on the road for a few moments after the accident, and promptly took him off to hospital. There was found that he was little the worse, having been lucky indeed in escaping severe internal injury. He was then driven safe home, to Teluk Ayer, to the great relief of the parents. To those who saw the accident the escape was little short of miraculo.

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THE GRILL ROOM.

Hongkong, 1st September, 1897.

a French naval station will be established at the entrance to the Persian Gulf. The one fact which concerns us is that such an event would be a direct blow to British supremacy in the Gulf, and constant menace to the peace of the Indian seas. France has little trade in this region, and her one solitary achievement in these waters during recent years has been the placing of such obstacles in the way of the suppression of the slave trade that it is once more in a fair way to become flourishing. It is a significant feature of the existing development of the situation that French intrigues have been carried on in association with Russia. The appointment of a Russian Consul at Muscat, where there is not a rupee's worth of Russian trade, is a significant incident which must not be overlooked. But it is believed that the aims of Russia have more especial reference to the Persian side of the Gulf, and that she is once again looking to Bunder Abbas as the spot where she is most likely to realise her dreams of sunshine and a sea-beach in the tropics. No doubt the statements we have made will have to run the gauntlet of the usual official denials. If the publicity which has been afforded has the result of putting an end, for the time being, to an international movement directly calculated to disturb the peace of the world, a useful purpose will have been served. That an attempt to secure a foothold in the Persian Gulf has been, and is being, made by France, we definitely and distinctly affirm. But a reputation by the Paris Government of the intrigues of its representatives would afford a temporary solution of a difficulty at present fraught with trouble. At the same time, the increasing tendency of France and Russia to intrude in the Persian Gulf forms a symptom of international politics not likely to disappear.

NOT ANDA.

NOT ANDA.**CALENDAR.**

MARCH.

Meteorological means based on ten years' observations to 1893.

Barometer	30.059
Thermometer	62.0
Humidity	85.0
Rainfall	4.08

TO-DAY.

WEATHER REPORT.

On date at 4 p.m.

Barometer	30.224
Thermometer	62
Humidity	67
Rainfall	69

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Rainfall	69

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Rainfall	69

TO-DAY.

WEATHER REPORT.

On date at 4 p.m.

Barometer	30.22

